

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst using a perovskite-type composite oxide that has an NO adsorption domain in the range 200–450°C, wherein the perovskite-type composite oxide is represented by the structural formula  $\text{RTO}_3$ , where R is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of La, Sr, Ba, Ca and Li and T is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Mn, Fe, Co, Cu, Zn, Ga, Zr, Mo, Mg, Al and Si, and  
the perovskite-type composite oxide contains substantially no Na and is one which is obtained by heat treating a powdery amorphous precursor substance containing said elements in stoichiometric ratios to produce the perovskite-type composite oxide.

2. canceled

3. canceled

4. (previously presented) A diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 1, wherein, in an exhaust gas atmosphere that contains NO, the catalyst initiates the combustion of particulate matter constituted primarily of carbon in diesel engine exhaust at a temperature below 450°C.

5. (previously presented) A particulate matter filter for control of diesel engine exhaust emissions that carries a diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 1.

6. (previously presented) A diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 2, wherein, in an exhaust gas atmosphere that contains NO, the catalyst initiates the combustion of particulate matter constituted primarily of carbon in diesel engine exhaust at a temperature below 450°C.

7. (previously presented) A diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 3, wherein, in an exhaust gas atmosphere that contains NO, the catalyst initiates the combustion of particulate matter constituted primarily of carbon in diesel engine exhaust at a temperature below 450°C.

8. (previously presented) A particulate matter filter for control of diesel engine exhaust emissions that carries a diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 2.

9. (previously presented) A particulate matter filter for control of diesel engine exhaust emissions that carries a diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 3.

10. (previously presented) A particulate matter filter for control of diesel engine exhaust emissions that carries a diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 4.

11. (new) A diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the perovskite-type composite oxide contains substantially no Na such that as a result of analysis of the composition by atomic absorption analysis, Na exhibits a value less than a measurement limit.

12. (new) A diesel engine exhaust gas particulate matter oxidation catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the precursor substance is obtained by preparing an aqueous solution of salts of raw materials that contains salts of said elements in stoichiometric ratios appropriate to produce the perovskite-type composite oxide with the  $\text{RTO}_3$  structure, reacting the aqueous solution with a precipitating agent which is a carbonate-containing ammonium ion at a reaction temperature of 60 °C or lower and at a pH of 6 or higher to make a precipitation product, and drying a filtrate of the precipitation product.